

Amendments to the Specification

Please add the following new paragraph on page 1, line 2:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO EARLIER-FILED APPLICATION

This application is a continuation of co-pending PCT application serial number PCT/CH01/00509, filed August 20, 2001, the entirety of which application is incorporated herein by reference thereto.

Please add the following heading immediately before the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 3:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 12, with the following amended paragraph:

The WO99/42051 discloses an interspinal prosthesis of this type, which includes a central piece, which is to be introduced into the interspinal space and from which a pair of ears arises cranially and caudally to the right and to the left of the central piece, in order to hold the central piece in the space between the spinous processes (processus spinosus) of two adjacent vertebrae after an implantation. A disadvantage of this known prosthesis is the fact that the latter is in one piece, which makes the implantation more difficult, so that it is necessary to remove the supraspinal ligament. The removal of this ligament has the disadvantage that the prosthesis is not held securely in the dorsal direction. For this reason, it is proposed in the WO99/42051 that the prosthesis be drilled through in the interspinal central piece, in order to pass a tape through the borehole, with which tape the prosthesis can be tied to the spinous processes of the adjacent vertebrae. This procedure is very time-consuming and complicated.

Please add the following heading immediately before the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 31:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Please add the following heading immediately before the paragraph beginning on
Page 5, line 5:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Please add the following heading immediately before the paragraph beginning on
Page 5, line 23:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Please add the following heading and paragraph on a new sheet after the Claims on
page 13:

ABSTRACT

A prosthesis for use in maintaining an interspinal space is disclosed. The prosthesis may be provided as first and second substantially symmetrical halves. The first and second halves may each have a coupling portion and a process portion. The coupling portions allow the separate halves to be separately fit within the interspinal space and then connected to form a single prosthesis, eliminating the need for cutting connecting ligaments to allow insertion of the prosthesis. Various connection and locking arrangements are disclosed to maintain the halves engaged with each other and the interspinal space.